



# BRANCHING OUT

NOVA SCOTIA

Department of Education - District Schools & Early Childhood Development



## New Courses Available from Correspondence Studies

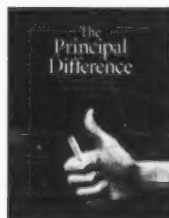
Correspondence Studies has these new courses available: Accounting 12 and Biology 11. For more information about Correspondence Studies, please visit <http://lrt.ednet.ns.ca>

## writers in Action

### Writers in Action 8 Implementation: May 17 to 19, 2006

The focus of this three-day event at Oak Island Inn will be to provide professional

development on instruction in the craft of writing to leadership teams from across the province. The agenda for this event will include book talks about professional resources, a presentation of the traits of writing by Jeanette MacKenzie, and workshops on the modes of writing and the assessment of writing. A one-day Writers in Action 8 in-service education workshop will be held in each board in 2006-07.



## Professional Resource for Principals!

All principals across Nova Scotia will receive a professional resource to support their work as school leaders. *The Principal Difference: Key Issues in School Leadership and How to Deal With Them Successfully* will

help principals address the complex challenge of being both a visionary educational leader and an effective manager, and to consider ways to transform their schools into more efficient, responsive learning communities that better meet the needs of their students, staff, and community. (Image used with permission: Stenhouse Publishers)



## EBSCO Professional Development Collection <http://search.epnet.com>

Specifically designed for educators,

EBSCO's professional development collection provides a highly specialized collection of nearly 550 high quality education journals, including more than 350 peer-reviewed titles and more than 200 educational reports. The Professional Development Collection is the most comprehensive collection of full-text education journals in the world.

Teachers and administrators can use this rich resource to support their professional growth plans and further studies.

### Summer Institutes 2006 Offer Something for Everyone!

Check out PD opportunities from the Department of Education. Details are available in the Summer Learning Opportunities Booklet 2006, arriving at your school in April. Register online and pay by credit card! (We anticipate the on-line registration site to be up and running the last week of May or first week of June; there'll be a link on Ednet at <http://www.ednet.ns.ca>. Look for "Summer Institutes for 2006.")

## Mathematics Itembank has more questions and more courses!

Courses already active are Mathematics 10, Mathematics 11, Mathematics Foundations 10, and Advanced Mathematics 11. These courses will be available by the beginning of May; Mathematics 12, Advanced Mathematics 12, and Mathematics Foundations 11. By the beginning of June, it's expected that items for the remaining two courses, Mathematics Foundations 12 and Pre-Calculus Mathematics 12 will be coming on-line.

If you require a password for the itembank, please send your request including your name, school, and professional number to: [itembank@gov.ns.ca](mailto:itembank@gov.ns.ca)

<http://itembank.ednet.ns.ca>

BRANCHING OUT is published 3 times yearly in October, February and April.

Back issues are available at <http://lrt.ednet.ns.ca/branching.shtml>

If you wish to receive the newsletter, please send an email to [lrt@ednet.ns.ca](mailto:lrt@ednet.ns.ca).



### **Teaching in Action P-3 Professional Development Workshop May 23-24, 2006**

A PD workshop will be held for primary-3 leadership teams to support the release of *Teaching in Action: Reading and Writing in Grades Primary-3*. Miriam Trehearne, well-known literacy expert from Alberta, will launch the workshop with a presentation on the latest research in early literacy. She will also assist in the various activities connected to the document itself. Teachers of primary-3 will find this curriculum supplement very helpful in putting a face to strong literacy practice in the early years.

### **Writing Resources for Grades 9 and 10**

English language arts teachers in grades 9 and 10 will soon receive the new *Write Traits Advanced Notebook Level 1* to support writing in the classroom. *Advanced Write Traits Advanced Notebook Level 1* offers information to teachers on six traits of writing—Ideas, Organization, Voice, Word Choice, Sentence Fluency, and Conventions. Six-trait writing is based on the premise that students who learn to “read” their own writing are better equipped to identify writing problems and revise with purpose. At the advanced level, students will learn the ways in which traits shift slightly across genre to accommodate purpose and audience.

### **Literacy Place for the Early Years Sampler for Grades Primary and One**

Schools with grades primary and/or 1 have received a *Literacy Place for the Early Years Sampler* for each of these grade levels. The sampler includes a collection of 10 Read Aloud books with teaching plans; three big books; complementary six-packs for small group shared/guided reading, an audio CD, and teaching plans; four independent books for grade primary with teaching plans; five independent books for grade 1 with teaching plans; a Writing Guide; a Working with Words Guide; and a Planning Guide.

Written by senior author Tony Stead, this comprehensive Canadian resource will be a strong addition to resources available to teachers.

### **Making More Time for Educational Leadership**

The department understands that focusing on educational leadership is what all principals want to do. *Learning for Life II: Brighter Futures Together* identifies principal educational leadership as essential for the success of the accreditation process. Where principals are able to focus on education, the impact on student achievement is clear.

To help address the issues that principals face in struggling to fulfill their role as educational leaders, we seconded Mitch Landry, an experienced principal from SSRSB, this year. Mitch has also been part of the Mount St. Vincent University project helping Jamaica reform its educational leadership, and this experience has added value to his work with us.

Throughout the fall and winter, Mitch consulted with principals in each school board. Based on the results, the department established a Principal Educational Leadership Advisory Group which includes a mix of both new and seasoned principals, from each school board, and all grade levels. The group met for the first time on March 31 and will meet twice more this spring.

By this summer, the group will submit a report outlining exemplary practices, material resources to support principals, and suggestions for addressing barriers. The goal is to help principals, school boards, and the department find ways to help principals move toward more time for educational leadership. We hope the end result will be greater awareness and support for educational leadership in public education, to the benefit of school and students' learning achievement.

### **Resources available from your public library**

Two new databases have recently become available to patrons at public libraries in Nova Scotia, World Book Online encyclopedia and ChiltonLibrary.com, an automotive repair information database. Any Nova Scotian with a public library card can access the resources at home, at school, at work, or at their local library.





### The Nova Scotia Museum — Fun, Fascinating and Hands-On!

Experience the 27 diverse sites of the Nova Scotia Museum family. Immerse your students in Nova Scotia's rich cultural and natural heritage. Add depth and dimension to your educational program with a memorable museum experience. From daily life in an authentic turn-of-the-century village to reliving tales of the high seas in a captain's cabin, take part in our history. Learn something special about Nova Scotian people, places, and things. Nova Scotia Museum experiences include permanent and temporary exhibits that range from exploring historic homes and villages, to visiting a working 19th-century farm, museums of ships and the sea, sites featuring natural wonders, working mills, walking trails, and museums about early industry in Nova Scotia. Visit <http://museum.gov.ns.ca/learn> — learn three ways to experience museums and be sure to download the Learning Resources Catalogue!

### Duke of Edinburgh's Award Program

High school students in Nova Scotia who earn the prestigious Duke of Edinburgh's Award are eligible to receive up to three elective credits towards graduation. The Duke of Edinburgh's Award program offers young people aged 14 to 25 years a valuable leadership opportunity where they can learn new skills, stay healthy and fit, care about their environment, and contribute to the community.

Students interested in participating in this challenging award program can learn more about its components and requirements from a new reference guide provided to principals of grades 9–12 schools in April. For more information, please contact Bonnie Baltzer, NS Executive Director, at (902) 847-0927, or by e-mail at [bbbdukeofed@ns.sympatico.ca](mailto:bbbdukeofed@ns.sympatico.ca).



### Salt of the Earth: October 19–22, 2006

Come to the Annual Conference of the Canadian Network for Environment Education and Communication (EECOM) and Interpretation

Canada (IC) at White Point Beach Lodge, to learn how environmental and sustainability education and interpretation can help create a culture of environmental respect and sustainability. You will learn more about practice, policy, and research; share ideas and make connections; and enjoy a fun, inspirational experience. Teachers are encouraged to submit Proposals for Presentation.

For further information please visit: <http://www.saltoftheearth.ca>. Early Bird Registration: April 1–June 22, 2006

### Software to support Active Readers 7–9

As part of English Program Services' Active Readers 7–9 Supplement, the Nova Scotia Department of Education is pleased to provide Photoshop Elements, Visual Thesaurus, and Anne Frank House Multimedia CD software for use within the grades 7–9 English language arts program. Details of the distribution were sent to principals of grade 7, 8, and 9 schools March 31st. To support teachers and students in the integration of the software, a set of online tutorials is linked from the Active Readers Website <http://ayr.ednet.ns.ca>; select Recommended Links from the side menu.

### Intensive French: More opportunities for students!

Intensive French increases students' self-esteem and confidence in using French. It provides more time for language development (20% overall in both French and English), and more opportunities for students to access an enhanced French second language program where other options are not available. Students receive approximately 70% of their classroom instruction in French for five months (first or second half of the school year). This is a literacy-based program: subjects such as science, social studies, health and arts education are integrated and taught in French.

Teachers receive one week of intensive training prior to teaching the program for the first time, one PD day during the intensive period of the school year, and two more days the following summer.

Piloting of this program began in Nova Scotia in 2003. In 2005–06, five grade six classes (115 students) in three boards: Strait Regional, Cape Breton-Victoria Regional, and Halifax Regional, participated in the program. When they can, graduates of Intensive French normally enrol in Late Immersion or Integrated French. Assessment and piloting of this program continue in order to guide the decision-making process about implementation in Nova Scotia.



## Gaelic Language and Culture Workshop May 4-5, 2006

The legacy of the Gaels is an important part of the cultural mosaic of Nova Scotia and Canada, and is reflected in the public school program in a number of areas including social studies, arts education, and language. The Department of Education, English Program Services, is pleased to offer teachers an opportunity to explore the language, history, oral tradition, identity, literature, and other arts of the Gaels during a two-day workshop to be held May 4-5 at Dalbrae Academy, Mabou.

Highlights of the workshop include a student showcase and ceilidh. There will also be sessions on drama, games, story telling, music, and the arts. Boards have been invited to identify a team of up to six (6) teachers. These teachers may be teachers of Gaelic language, Gaelic Studies 11 teachers, teachers interested in offering Gaelic language and/or Gaelic Studies 11, social studies teachers interested in incorporating aspects of Gaelic culture and history into their courses, or grades primary-12 arts teachers interested in incorporating aspects of Gaelic culture in drama, dance, music, and visual arts.

The Department will cover the costs associated with this professional development opportunity such as accommodations, mileage, substitutes, and meals according to the usual government rates where applicable.

If you are interested in this workshop, please contact your Board's Program Co-ordinator.



## Science 4 and Science 5 Implementation Workshop

Teachers and board staff from around the province will be participating in a 3-day workshop for Science 4 and Science 5 implementation at Oak Island Inn, May 3 to May 5, 2006. Participants will get an opportunity to explore science and take ideas about how to implement the science curriculum back to their boards.

### Public Schools Branch consists of the following Divisions:

African Canadian Services	902-424-3151	acsd@ednet.ns.ca	http://acs.ednet.ns.ca
English Program Services	902-424-8945	eps@ednet.ns.ca	http://eps.ednet.ns.ca
Education Quality Services	902-424-0040		
Evaluation Services	902-424-7746	testeval@ednet.ns.ca	http://plans.ednet.ns.ca
French Second Language Program Services	902-424-6646	fls@ednet.ns.ca	
Learning Resources and Technology Services	902-424-2462	lrt@ednet.ns.ca	http://lrt.ednet.ns.ca
Mi'kmaq Services	902-424-3428	msd@ednet.ns.ca	http://mikmaq-services.ednet.ns.ca
Student Services	902-424-7454	studentsvcs@ednet.ns.ca	
Senior Executive Director	902-424-5829		
Regional Education Offices	902-424-5799	(Halifax)	902-563-2080 (Sydney)
	902-893-5890	(Truro)	902-742-3427 (Yarmouth)

Nova Scotia Department of Education website: <http://ednet.ns.ca>

## Providing Support Through Co-teaching

Learning Resources and Technology Services has produced *Providing Support through Co-teaching* for Student Services. The program explains co-teaching strategies schools can use to support challenged students in the classroom, without resorting to conventional, "pull-out" delivery of resource teaching. Co-teaching was a pilot program in the Cape Breton-Victoria Regional School Board during 2005-06.

The accompanying Student Services document, *Supporting Student Success: Resource Programming & Services* is available online ([http://www.ednet.ns.ca/pdfdocs/studentsvcs/student\\_success/Student\\_Success\\_web\\_full.pdf](http://www.ednet.ns.ca/pdfdocs/studentsvcs/student_success/Student_Success_web_full.pdf)) or through consultant Don Glover (424-2128) at Student Services.

## School Board Technology Tenders

Tenders for all computer hardware and peripherals including digital video and still cameras, sound and light equipment for support to drama and video production, and Tech Ed 7 to 12 components will again be available to you directly via contact with your Board technology department. Standing offers are published annually in late June and provided to the technology departments at each school board. For further information, please contact your school board technology department.



